



The European Semester and the Dutch consultation economy

European Semester consultations in The Netherlands



Outline

- SER and Labour Foundation as central institutions
- Preparations for the EU Spring Summit
- Preparation of the Dutch National Reform Programme (NRP)
- Addressing the country specific recommendations (CSR) in The Netherlands
- Monitoring the Work Programme of the European Commission

2. Two institutions at central level

- Social and Economic Council (SER)
 - = tripartite since 1950
 - = standing committee on Socio-Economic Affairs
 - = standing committee on European Affairs
- Labour Foundation
 - = bipartite since 1945
 - = standing working group on European Affairs

1. EU Spring Summit

- Annual Growth Survey = start European Semester
- Discussion in two SER-committees European Affairs and Social and Economic Affairs
- Joint discussion paper is sent to the Minister of Economic Affairs
- 3 March 2016: formal consultation with Minister of Economic Affairs on EU Spring Summit/ European Semester
- Follow-up is still open ended

2. Dutch NR Programme

Consultation with the Labour Foundation, not with the Social and Economic Council

- NRP is responsibility of Dutch government
- January 2016: government organises a kick-off meeting with stakeholders = social partners, local governments, NGO's
- February/ March: consultation on draft chapters
- March/April: Social partners and local governments contribute annex to NRP
- April: NRP plus annex is sent to Brussels

3. Recommendations to NL

- New: country report presented by European Commission representatives to two SER-committees (1 March 2016)
 - = SER-committee on Social and Economic Affairs
 - = SER-committee on European Affairs
- New: European Commission representatives visited the two SER-committees for a discussion on the country report in the perspective of the upcoming country specific recommendations (26 April 2016)
- Country specific recommendations to be discussed in SER-committee on Social and Economic Affairs (7 June 2016)

3. Recommendations to NL

1. Limit the deviation from the medium-term budgetary objective in 2016 and achieve an annual fiscal adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP in 2017. Prioritise public expenditure towards supporting more investment in research and development.
2. Tackle remaining barriers to hiring staff on permanent contracts and facilitate the transition from temporary to permanent contracts. Address the high increase in self-employed without employees, including by reducing tax distortions favouring self-employment, without compromising entrepreneurship, and by promoting access of the self-employed to affordable social protection.
3. Take measures to make the second pillar of the pension system more transparent, inter-generationally fairer and more resilient to shocks. Take measures to reduce the remaining distortions in the housing market and the debt bias for households, in particular by decreasing mortgage interest tax deductibility.

4. Work Programme European Commission



The SER-committee on European Affairs monitors the work programme on relevance for current/ coming advisory reports